

1 TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

2 The Committee on Human Services to which was referred House Bill No.  
3 534 entitled “An act relating to community action agencies” respectfully  
4 reports that it has considered the same and recommends the bill be amended by  
5 striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the  
6 following:

7 Sec. 1. 3 V.S.A. chapter 59 is amended to read:

8 CHAPTER 59. COMMUNITY ~~SERVICES~~ ACTION AGENCIES

9 § 3901. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE

10 (a) Recognizing that the economic well-being and social equity of every  
11 Vermonter has long been a fundamental concern of the State, it remains  
12 evident that ~~poverty continues to be the lot of~~ a substantial number of  
13 Vermont’s population continues to experience poverty. It is the policy of ~~this~~  
14 the State to help develop the full potential of each of its citizens so they can  
15 contribute to the fullest extent possible to the life of our communities and the  
16 State as a whole.

17 (b) It is the purpose of this chapter to strengthen, supplement, and  
18 coordinate efforts that further this policy through:

19 (1) the strengthening of community capabilities for planning,  
20 coordinating, and managing federal, State, and other sources of assistance  
21 related to the problem of poverty;

1           (2) the better organization and utilization of a range of services related  
2 to the needs of ~~the poor~~ individuals with low income; and

3           (3) the broadening of the resource base of programs to secure a more  
4 active role in assisting ~~the poor~~ individuals with low income from business,  
5 labor, and other groups from the private sector.

6       § 3902. OFFICE OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

7           (a) The Director of the Office of Economic Opportunity is hereby  
8 authorized to allocate available financial assistance for community ~~services~~  
9 action agencies and programs in accordance with State and federal law and  
10 regulation.

11          (b) The Director may provide financial assistance to community ~~services~~  
12 action agencies for the planning, conduct, administration, and evaluation of  
13 community ~~service~~ action programs to provide a range of services and  
14 activities having a measurable and potentially major impact on causes of  
15 poverty in the community or in areas of the community where poverty is a  
16 particularly acute problem. Components of those services and activities may  
17 involve, without limitation of other activities and supporting facilities designed  
18 to assist ~~low-income~~ participants with low income:

19           (1) to secure and retain meaningful employment;

20           (2) to obtain adequate education;

21           (3) to make better use of available income;

1           (4) to ~~provide and maintain adequate housing and a suitable living~~  
2 ~~environment~~ have access to safe, secure, and permanent housing;

3           (5) to obtain prevention, intervention, treatment, and recovery services  
4 ~~for the prevention of narcotics addiction, alcoholism, and for the rehabilitation~~  
5 ~~of narcotic addicts and alcoholics~~ individuals with substance use disorder;

6           (6) to obtain emergency assistance through loans and grants to meet  
7 immediate and urgent individual and family needs, including the need for  
8 health services, nutritious food, housing, and unemployment-related assistance;

9           (7) to remove obstacles and solve personal and family problems that  
10 block achievement of self-sufficiency;

11           (8) to achieve greater participation in the affairs of the community;

12           (9) to make more frequent and effective use of other programs related to  
13 the purposes of this chapter; and

14           (10) to coordinate and establish linkages between governmental and  
15 other social service programs to ensure the effective delivery of such services  
16 to ~~low income~~ persons; with low income and to encourage the use of entities in  
17 the private sector of the community in efforts to ameliorate poverty in the  
18 community.

19           (c) The Director is authorized to adopt rules pursuant to chapter 25 of this  
20 title appropriate to the carrying out of this chapter and its purposes thereof.

1       § 3903. DESIGNATION OF AGENCIES TO PROVIDE SERVICES AND  
2                   ACTIVITIES TO AMELIORATE OR ELIMINATE POVERTY

3           The Director shall designate private nonprofit ~~community-based~~  
4       community-based organizations ~~who~~ that have demonstrated or ~~who~~ that can  
5       demonstrate the ability to provide services and activities as defined in  
6       subsection 3902(b) of this title as community ~~services~~ action agencies.

7       § 3904. COMMUNITY ~~SERVICES~~ ACTION AGENCY ASSESSMENT  
8                   AND PLAN

9           Each designated community ~~services~~ action agency shall determine the need  
10       for activities and services within the area served by the agency ~~and shall~~  
11       ~~thereafter prepare a community services plan that describes the method by~~  
12       ~~which the agency will provide those services~~ every three years, complete an  
13       assessment, and incorporate that information into an annual community action  
14       plan. The plan shall include a schedule for the anticipated provision of new or  
15       ~~additional~~ ongoing services and shall specify the resources that are needed by  
16       and available to the agency to implement the plan. ~~The community services~~  
17       ~~plan shall be updated annually.~~

18       § 3905. COMMUNITY ~~SERVICES~~ ACTION AGENCIES;  
19                   ADMINISTRATION

1 (a) Each community ~~services~~ action agency shall administer its programs as  
2 set out in the community ~~services~~ action plan and as approved by its board of  
3 directors.

4 (b) Each board of a nonprofit ~~community-based~~ community-based  
5 organization that is designated a community ~~services~~ action agency under  
6 section 3903 of this chapter shall have an executive committee of not more  
7 than seven members who shall be representative of the composition of the  
8 board and the board shall be so constituted that:

9 (1) ~~one-third of the members of the board are elected public officials~~  
10 ~~currently holding office, or their designees, except that if the number of elected~~  
11 ~~officials reasonably available and willing to serve is less than one-third of the~~  
12 ~~membership of the board, membership on the board of appointive public~~  
13 ~~officials may be counted in meeting such one-third requirement;~~

14 (2) a minimum of one-third of the members of the board are persons  
15 chosen in accordance with election procedures adequate to ensure that they are  
16 representative of the poor individuals with low income in the area served; and

17 (2) one-third of the members of the board are elected public officials  
18 currently holding office, or their designees, except that if the number of elected  
19 officials reasonably available and willing to serve is less than one-third of the  
20 membership of the board, membership on the board of appointive public  
21 officials may be counted in meeting such one-third requirement; and

## Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.

(Committee vote: \_\_\_\_\_)

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Representative \_\_\_\_\_

FOR THE COMMITTEE